Mexico City is one of the world’s largest megacities and epitomizes the challenges posed by these sizeable agglomerations. Managing a city of this size places a strain on the environment, natural resources, urban infrastructure, and government. The government of Mexico City has resolved to tackle head on the issue of criminality within the city, developing and implementing a program entitled Safe City. The key objectives sought to decrease the rate of crime, improve the model for emergency assistance, increase the presence of the police force throughout the city, improve the communication between the various security and emergency services, help to prevent criminal activity and overall improve the level of safety for residents of the city. Safe City is a streamlined emergency response system that serves to prevent, detect and respond immediately to both natural disasters and security related issues. The Government of Mexico City has implemented this project in partnership with the public and police emergency forces to ensure the response is both efficient and appropriate. The system itself has the following components: a Center of Command, Control, Communication and Computing, Intelligence, Investigation, Information, and Integration (C4i4), 5 Centers of Command and Control (C2) (North, South, West, East and Center), 2 Centers of Command Mobiles (C2M), 8,088 Cameras, an Automatic Number Plate Recognition System, a Simulation Laboratory and Test, Training Room, and a Fiber Optic Ring. All of these various systems are fully integrated and managed through the C4i4 enabling coordinated action of the Federal Government, private organizations and private individuals. The success of this project is partly due to the manner in which it has been distinctly tailored to the character of Mexico City given the conditions where it is located in the Federal District i.e. with more than 8.5 million citizens living in close proximity to volcanoes, and more cameras across the city, but this will be dependent upon the resources that the next administration is able to direct towards it.

1.1 KEY INTERVENTIONS

Deriving from the vision of the Prime Minister Marcelo Ebrard, a comprehensive program that includes aspects of both protection and security was developed for the Federal District entitled Safe City. It consists of C4i4, 5 C2’s, 2 mobile C2, 8,088 cameras, 8,088 indoor and outdoor Beacons, a Fiber Optic Ring to connect the buildings, that allow the city’s government to address issues of safety and security. The Center of Attention to Emergencies and Civil Protection was also established as the co-ordinated entity that reports to the Prime Minister helping to coordinate the activities of different emergency agencies and monitor the project’s implementation. The headquarters themselves are an impressive piece of construction and are home to intelligence and research personnel. C4i4 is a 20,942 m²/600,000 square feet emergency response center for Mexico City. Divided over three floors with a rooftop helipad, the building comprises of concrete bed foundations, bonds, concrete slab and concrete walls. The operation building is guaranteed to remain functional in the event of an earthquake. Underneath and in close proximity to the emergency response center, there exists an extensive program of research into other cities approaches to Emergency Operation Systems. Mexico City has already created a variety of different cities and countries that included, London, Singapore, Israel, France, Colombia, US, and others. This best practices and lessons learned were then categorically used to allow the government to design and develop an informed model that was tailored to the context of Mexico City’s adjusting other approaches to their specific needs.

1.2 MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

Within a year of its implementation the “Safe City” program has reduced crime rates by 12.8% (as measured in 2015). It had also reduced the response times for emergency care with savings waiting time of 12 minutes. An additional means of public safety is the Project C4i4 that introduced for citizens through the help button. This project can be considered the first of its kind with full integration of various aspects of both public protection and security. In the case of any major disaster there is the capacity to coordinate the activities of the Federal Government, private organizations and private individuals. The success of this project is partly due to the manner in which it has been distinctly tailored to the character of Mexico City given the conditions where it is located in the Federal District i.e. with more than 8.5 million citizens living in close proximity to volcanoes, and more cameras across the city, but this will be dependent upon the resources that the next administration is able to direct towards it.

1.3 GOVERNANCE

The Safe City Project is focused on the specific needs of the City of Mexico, where laws were created that carefully considered the civil liberties of the individual citizen. Law of location has ensured that cameras are only located on public roads, with the necessary gatherings and investigation and helping to protect citizens. The project is the creation of a new decentralized government agency, the Center of Attention to Emergencies and Civil Protection of the Citizens of Mexico City. It has been able to measure the response times to different agencies with total transparency.

CONCLUSION

The project’s success is demonstrated through the reduction in criminal activity, improved emergency response time and overall level of service delivered to local citizens. It has used its streamlined operating protocols to guarantee that emergency personnel and security provide an efficient service to citizens. Mexico City now has the infrastructure to cope with any natural disaster, crime related issues or security threat posed. Mexico City is now being used as a reference model for other cities as its unique approach to civil protection and security is being used to informing the design and development of other programs systems across the world.
MEXICO CITY

Mexico City is one of the world’s largest megacities and epitomizes the challenges posed by these sizeable agglomerations. Managing a city of this size places a strain on the environment, natural resources, urban infrastructure and government. The government of Mexico City has resolved to tackle head on the issue of criminality within the city, developing and implementing a program entitled Safe City. The key objectives sought to decrease the crime rate, improve the model for emergency assistance, increase the presence of the police force throughout the city, improve the communication between the various security and emergency services, help to prevent crime and, overall, improve the level of safety in the city.

The government of Mexico City has undertaken an extensive program of research into other cities’ approaches to Emergency Operation Systems visiting a variety of different cities and countries that included, London, Singapore, Israel, France, Colombia, Brazil, US and Korea. It has used its streamlined operating protocols to guarantee that both emergency personnel and security provide an efficient service to citizens.

Headquaters of the operation, C4i4, is a 20,342,60 m², earthquake proof nerve center for Mexico City living in the municipality.

Within a year of its implementation the “Safe City” program had reduced crime rates by 12.8% (as measured in 2011).

Safe City is a streamlined emergency response system that serves to prevent, detect and respond immediately to both natural disasters and security related issues. It has led to it being used as a reference model for other cities as its unique approach to civil protection and security is being used to inform the design and development of other systems across the world.